

Group Art Unit: 2833
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Michiaki Okamoto
Hiroyuki Matsuoka

Appl. No. : 10/731,844

Filed : December 9, 2003

For : CONNECTOR AND CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION BY HIROYUKI MATSUOKA UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Sir:

I, Hiroyuki Matsuoka, I am an employee of Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd.
I am also one of the two named inventors for the above-identified application.

Staff members of the Intellectual Property Department of Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd. have reviewed the prosecution of this application with me.

Claim 4 of my patent application recites a cam groove with "an inclined portion extending from the starting end towards the rear side of the movable member at an acute angle to both the operating direction and the connecting direction and a returning portion extending back towards the front side of the movable member at an acute angle to both the operating direction and the connecting direction and continuing to the terminus end of the cam groove to displace the housings in separating directions as the follower pin is moved towards the terminus end in the cam groove." This aspect

of my invention takes advantage of increased air pressure generated between the mating connectors as the connectors approach a fully mated condition. This air pressure urges the housings away from one another. The claimed returning portion of the cam groove ensures that the increased air pressure in the housing will urge the cam pin tightly against the terminus end of the cam groove to achieve a more secure locked connection between the housings.

I understand that the claims of the above-identified patent application were rejected as being obvious over JP6-2577 considered in view of JP2002-313482 and U.S. Patent No. 6,200,164. I also understand that the final rejection acknowledges that neither JP6-2577 nor U.S. Patent No. 6,155,850 suggest a cam groove with the features set forth in the claims of the above-identified application, as quoted above. However, the final rejection relies upon JP2002-313482 and asserts that JP2002-313482 has a cam groove with the features set forth above.

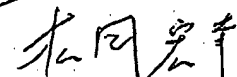
I am the inventor for the JP2002-313482 reference cited in the Office Action. I have reviewed JP2002-313482 again very carefully, including the Japanese language text and all of the figures. The cam groove shown in my JP2002-313482 reference does not have a returning portion extending back towards the front side of the movable member, at an acute angle to both the operating direction and the connecting direction and continuing to the terminus end of the cam groove. Rather, section of the cam groove adjacent the terminus end extends parallel to the operating direction of the movable member and perpendicular to the connecting direction. As a result, the connector shown in my JP2002-313482 reference would not displace the housings in

separating directions as the follower pin is moved towards the terminus end in the cam groove.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date:

Sep. 14, 2005



Hiroyuki Matsuoka